

OUT OF TIME

Issue No. 46

Out of Control--Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners

Feb 1999



LET ASSATA BE

The Association by the state of New Jersey to kidnap Assata Shakur from Cuba and bring her back to the US is continuing full force. Governor Christine Whitman has even broadcast her reward for vigilante actions over Radio Free Cuba.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write Governor Christine Whitman to express your disagreement with her actions: Governor Christine Todd Whitman, State of New Jersey, CN-001, Trenton, NJ 08625.

Write to Fidel Castro to show your support for his protection of Shakur and other political prisoners: President Fidel Castro, c/o Cuban Interests Section, 2630 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009; fax: (202) 797-8521; e-mail: cubaseccion@igc.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Hands Off Assata Campaign: PO Box 380058, Brooklyn, NY 11238, Tel: (212) 561-0912

The AfroCuba website provides up to date info on Shakur's case: PO Box 1054, Arlington, MA 02474-0020, E-mail: main@afrocubaweb.com, Website: www.afrocubaweb.com

RELEASE SILVIA!

In December, we did a mailing and printed an appeal in Out of Time (see November issue OOT) requesting donations and asking people to join our current email, fax campaign urging the repatriation of Silvia to Italy.

On behalf of political prisoner Silvia Baraldini and the Release Silvia! Committees in San Francisco and New York, THANK YOU to all readers for your support! We raised \$1600 which will help us move forward more aggressively and make Justice for Silvia a reality.

For more info contact: Release Silvia! Committee: 3543 18th Street, Box 30, San Francisco, CA 94110 / PO Box 02-1140, Brooklyn, NY 11202 / CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.justice-for-silvia.org>

Benefit for Marilyn Buck

A locally organized committee in the San Francisco Bay Area, Friends of Marilyn Buck, including three of us from OOC, have been sponsoring a raffle drive over the past six months. The grand prize was a piece sculpted by anti-imperialist, political prisoner Marilyn Buck called Jericho 98. The raffle drive culminated on January 24, 1999 at the La Pena Cultural Center in Berkeley. The program was testament to all the love and respect Marilyn Buck engenders and truly deserves.

The house was packed, standing room only. The program was emceed by Donna Willmott and Ida Robinson, former political prisoners who did time with Marilyn. Poets were Nellie Wong, Straight Out Scribes, a knock-out mother-daughter team from Sacramento, Mitsuye Yamada, Poetry for the People and Dugla, a young man who Marilyn has known since he was a baby, the son of Marilyn's close friend Gunilla Napier. Political prisoners Nuh Washington and Herman Bell sent statements recorded on audio tape. Political prisoners Laura Whitehorn, Linda Evans, Dylcia Pagan and David Gilbert also sent statements which were read. (See OOT page 4 for Laura's and Linda's statement.) Munyiga Lumumba read part of a forward written by Kwame Ture for a soon to be published book of Marilyn's poetry. Mujahid Shakur read a statement sent by Assata from Cuba.

There was also an incredible, huge puppets brought on stage. On one side it was Assata, the other Marilyn Buck. Miranda Bergman, a well known Bay Area muralist and old friend of Marilyn's spoke about their lives together in San Francisco in the sixties. The Troublemakers Union, including a keyboard, flute, two percussionists and two vocalists, played a few tunes including a Nina Simone number. Then finally the raffle drawing which was won by someone from New York. About \$5,000 was raised through the raffle. About \$5,000 more was raised from other sources including Fireworx.

Marilyn is taking college courses now. Part of the proceeds will go for tuition and books. Some will help cover legal costs as Marilyn is pursuing an appeal filed along with her co-defendant Mutulu Shakur. And finally, some of the money will go to support the Jericho movement, a national network seeking freedom for all political prisoners and POWs.

A DELIGHTED THANK YOU to RESIST FOUNDATION for their grant of \$2000 to Out of Control for "the Visibility Project" - our aggressive outreach, education and action project which seeks to build wider support for women political prisoners and work toward their release.

RESIST can be reached at: 259 Elm Street, Suite 201, Somerville, Mass. 02144, 617-623-5110.



Out of Time
c/o Out of Control Lesbian Committee
3543--18th Street, Box 30
San Francisco, CA 94110
e-mail: outoftime@igc.apc.org

LEONARD PELTIER

February 6th, 1999 will mark my 23rd year in prison. Twenty-three years is a long time. It is nearly one half of my 54 years of age. In these 23 years we have filed three direct appeals countering and attacking the evidence used to convict me. Each time we have made some advancement and success in exposing the corruption and conspiracy to imprison me. I don't need to tell you of the political atmosphere that was happening on Pine Ridge. But, we all know that there was government sponsored drive by shootings and terrorist acts on the Lakota, Oglala people. Any of us who took the oath to become a warrior was well aware that these attacks against Native American Nations was not just taking place on Pine Ridge-it was happening through out Indian Country. Though I know in my heart I have committed no crimes-I have never violated any of their laws, not even a traffic ticket-the American government insists that I committed a crime against their Nation. I have no idea what crime that could be. First they tell me I am convicted of first degree murder, then their evidence is impeached and they tell me that I am convicted of aiding and abetting. I do not know who or what I could have aided and abetted since my co-defendants were found innocent on grounds of self-defense. So, I guess I am in prison for aiding and abetting self-defense. In reality the only thing I am guilty of is defending and standing up for a nation of people who were being oppressed and were resisting attempts of complete annihilation. An attempt that no one has yet been made to pay for.

In the last 23 years we have also been fighting my illegal extradition from Canada. It is an undisputed, known fact that by vote, the courts of Canada and the U.S. concluded the proceedings were fraudulent with manipulation and manufacture of evidence-in direct violation of International Law. In 1995, after a lot of pressure from the Canadian people, Canada's Minister of Justice conducted an investigation into the extradition proceedings. This report has since been approved for release by the Privacy Commission, and yet, the current Minister of Justice, Ann Mc Clellan will not release the report to us. Obviously the disclosure of this report could prove crucial to my freedom.

We have tried everything possible in the last 23 years to obtain my freedom-there has been many supporters



that have stuck with me since the day of my arrest and many more who have moved on with their lives-there are always many more new ones coming to my aid in my hour of need-I thank all of you for the position you have taken on my behalf. I understand your frustration-I feel it every minute of every day. I know some of you may go to jail for a short while-I wish I could hold you in my arms and thank you personally for the sacrifice you are willing to take for me.

The future of our struggle for justice is going to get harder-not only for Native people but for all people who love freedom and peace. As we see right wing media with its biased reports on what is going on in places such as Chiapas, Iraq, Palestine, and here at home, we must strengthen our abilities to communicate with each other and educate our communities to the realities which we face as caring, compassionate human beings who do have the ability to live with one another with respect. I know that one day we will succeed.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Leonard Peltier, Dec. 1998

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Out of Control apologizes for the omission of postal addresses in the last issue of Out of Time. There is a lot of activity around Leonard Peltier's case this month, including national demonstrations Feb. 6th and a letter writing campaign for clemency and for medical treatment of his jaw. Leonard cannot open his mouth enough to bite and properly chew his food. The Mayo Clinic has offered to treat him, but prison officials have denied all requests. Legal actions are underway to get him the care he needs, but public pressure is also necessary to encourage prison officials to stop this neglect.

For medical attention we need to write letters to: Kathleen Hawk, Director Bureau of Prisons, 320 First Street, Washington, DC 20534 or Warden Booker, Leavenworth Federal Prison, PO Box 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048. For clemency write: President Clinton, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20500. For more information about Peltier's case and future actions write to LPDC, PO Box 583, Lawrence KS 66044. Their web page is <http://members.xoom.com/freepeltier/index.html>.

Squillacote and Stand Sentenced

Leftist activists Terry Squillacote and Kurt Stand, convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage and related charges, were sentenced on January 22. Terry received 21 years and Kurt 17 years. They were each fined \$100.

Squillacote, a lawyer and former Pentagon employee, and Stand, former North American representative of the International Food Workers Union, were targets of an FBI sting operation set up after the FBI stole a letter to South African Defense Minister and Communist Party leader Ronnie Kasrils from her apartment. An FBI agent posing as an official of the Mandela government approached her and requested information. The documents Squillacote removed from the Pentagon and turned

over to the agent are the only actual documents involved in the entire case. Nothing was ever turned over to a foreign power.

Defense lawyers argued for shorter sentences based on Squillacote's physical and emotional health problems, and Stand's lesser involvement in the case. The judge chose the lowest amount of time but did not deviate from sentencing guidelines. James Clark, their co-defendant and prosecution witness, received 12 years. The defense lawyers will appeal the verdict.

For more information contact: Fund for The Fourth Amendment, PO Box 5685, Washington, DC 20016; (202)829-6167.

School of the Americas

Kathleen Rumpf, William Bichsel, Margaret Eilerman, Ed Kinane, and Mary Trotochaud, were convicted in March of 1998 of maliciously destroying government property, a felony. Their crime: rewriting the sign at the main gate of Fort Benning in Georgia. Fort Benning is the home of the u.s. army's School of the Americas, a training camp for many of the right wing military death squads in Central America over the past 20 years. They changed the sign to read, School of Shame. They all received sentences of 8 to 12 months in federal prison. Actions against the School of the Americas have been continuing and there was a huge demonstration last November.

The judge who sentenced the five activists, J. Robert Elliot, is the same one who overturned the first degree murder conviction of u.s. army lieutenant William Calley in 1974 after the My Lai massacre. He also blocked Martin Luther King from marching through Columbus, GA. But obviously property damage is more heinous a crime than people damage for judge Elliot.

When Kathleen Rumpf was sentenced, she pulled on her "Judge Releases Calley" memorial T-shirt, to which she had added her own picture and the words, "Pardon Me Too". The judge pretended not to notice. Kathleen was a prison activist for many years in Syracuse, NY and spent 2 years in prison for a Plowshares action in 1984. She has just been transferred and can be written to at Carswell FPH, PO Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX 16127. Her number is #02117-052.

Sparks Fly! East Benefit a Success

On Friday December 11, 1998 Sparks Fly East was held and it was a great success. This event was co-sponsored by United Students Government of Hunter College and a dozen women from various organizations (Jericho, Malcolm X Grass Roots Movement, Pro Libertad, Mumia Coalition and Resistance in Brooklyn) who worked to put Sparks Fly East together. Over 200 women, children and men attended the event to raise money for the women PP/POW's, and honor them for their commitment to their revolutionary principles.

The women artist who participated were Poets: Mari-rosa, Rosmari Mealy, Asha Bendele, Suzanna Cabanas, Sandra Marie Esteves, Veronica Golos, and Grace Rivera. Singers Sally O'Brian and Rhythms of Aqua, Dancer, Maia Claire Garrison from M'zawa Danz and Drummer Joyce Jones. The evening was MC-ed by Monifa Akinwale-Bande.

We raised \$1920; \$100 will go to each of the women. We would like to invite all women to join us in building a larger audience for a Sparks Fly! East II in 1999. Please send us an e-mail so we can let you know of our first meeting in the spring. Paulette (lungmei@hotmail.com) or Meg at (mmmsrnb@igc.org).

Note from eds.: There was no postal address included.

We'd like to express our deepest sorrow for the recent passing of Holbrook Teter, a long time activist in the SF Bay Area. His contribution to the movement will be sorely missed.

OUT OF TIME

Concert in New Jersey

There was a sold out benefit concert for Mumia Abu-Jamal held by Rage Against the Machine, the Beastie Boys, Bad Religion and Black Star on January 28th. The concert was at the Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford, NJ. This is the same place the NJ Devils and the NJ Nets play. Chuck D of Public Enemy spoke in support of Mumia, as well as members of the band Chumbawumba, and Pam Africa of the MOVE organization and International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The concert sold out in only a day or so, but not everyone knew the show was a benefit for Mumia and as soon as state officials, tv, news and radio broadcasters found out, there was a serious effort to shut it down. When state officials realized there was no way to legally do so, NJ State Police (who provide security for all Arena events) and even Arena Security threatened to boycott the show hoping to have the show called off for lack of security. When this failed, the governor of NJ, the NJ Justice Deptment and other political bodies denounced the show. Television, print and radio stations chimed in urging people who bought tickets to turn them in.

92.3 K Rock, one of New York City's top mainstream rock radio stations, interviewed Maureen Faulkner, the widow of Daniel Faulkner, the cop Mumia is accused of killing. This music radio station dedicated about three hours of prime rush hour listening time, to discuss the case with callers, Mrs. Faulkner, and Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine. Stories about the show and Mumia covered the front pages of all newspapers and were leading stories on television for nearly a week. Rock and talk radio were talking about it for a week solid before the show and MTV did extensive coverage of the show and its cause for two days following the concert.

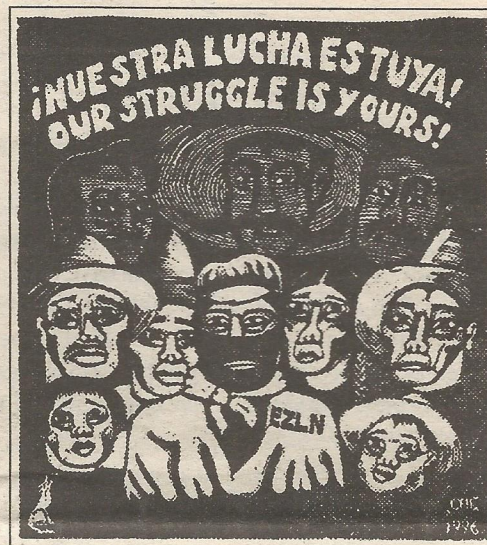
In the face of all the publicity, the Continental Airlines Arena began to offer refunds to people who wanted to return their tickets because they didn't want to support Mumia. On the night of the show, all news accounts were quick to tell people that about 2,000 people returned their tickets, they failed to mention that the tickets were resold

nearly as fast as they were returned. All NJ and NY news stations were at the arena the night of the show. They interviewed many of the young concert goers, most (not all) of whom said they were there more so for the music than the cause.

Before the show, representatives of all of the participating bands did a press conference with Leonard Weinglass. Parts of this press conference were also featured in the news. Zack De La Roca of Rage Against the Machine (who organized the concert) said, "Working to ensure the legal rights that all us presume to enjoy certainly has turned out to be controversial! Let me say straight up that tonight's benefit is not to support cop killers, or any other kind of killers. And if there were no question about the guilt of Mumia Abu-Jamal, we would not be holding this concert. But whether Jamal is guilty, or is himself the victim of an outrageous miscarriage of justice, is precisely what is at issue. Tonight's benefit seeks to answer that question by allowing Jamal to have the fair and impartial judicial review that he was denied by the state of Pennsylvania."

There were Mumia demonstrations in the parking lot, we believe only one of which was supporting Mumia's execution. Newspapers reported the anti-Mumia demonstrators were spit on. Some news reported that there were no demonstrations. Many news stations and even police predicted violence from what they felt was a crowd likely to be hostile towards concert security. Most Mumia supporters feared trouble from the police who were openly hostile to the idea of the show and went so far as to try and stop it. But after everything was over, the show went on without incident and raised well over \$400,000 (a mysteriously unspecified amount of which will go to Mumia's legal defense). We hope to see many more concerts such as this and feel that all of the news media and attention this single event brought to Mumia's case may be even more valuable than the funds that were raised.

Neil, Anarchist Black Cross Federation, New Jersey



Carlos Cortez

Other Resources

1. resistant strains is a group of activists and artists coordinating and producing political art, including poster series, publication and traveling exhibits. They have done three series so far: Bank Job (1995) about the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, Zapatista (1996) in solidarity with the struggle in Chiapas, Mexico, and Maximum Security Democracy (1998) about prison labor, police violence, racism, women and class and incarceration, and political prisoners. This series can be viewed on the WEB at www.prisonactivist.org/resistant-strains. In their own words, "...these works are not for activists only. We are interested in producing critical, political art that is accessible to anyone and that examines issues without resorting to oversimplification. We want to put out works that are sharp and funny an engaging and politically challenging..." They also solicit work and input from prisoners. They want to provide activists with visual material for use in organizing and support the building of resistance through art. Write them at 15 Winter St. Montpelier VT 05602 or e-mail vters4nica@igc.org

2. DEEP DISH TV is the first national satellite access network linking independent and community producers with activists and audiences who support the reality of a progressive television network. They have been transmitting since 1986. Contact them at 339 Lafayette St. New York NY 10012 or e-mail, deepdish@igc.org or <http://www.igc.org/deepdish>

3. Blind Eye to Justice is a new video about HIV+ women incarcerated in California. It is narrated by Angela Davis. It is available from the Women's Positive Legal Action Network, 1611 Telegraph Ave. #822, Oakland CA 94612 or e-mail, wplan@pacbell.net

All Kinds of Resources

Prison related newsletters

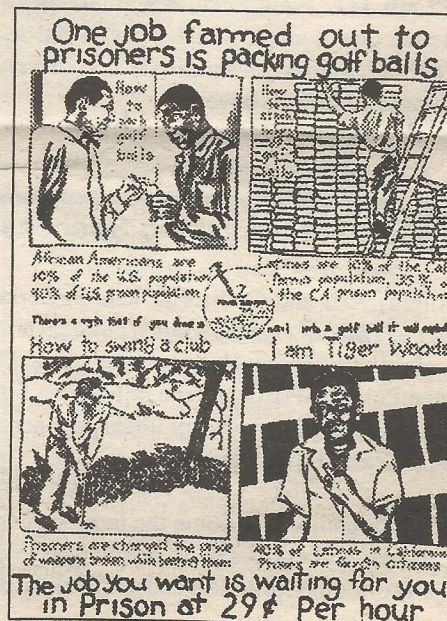
1. WALKIN' STEEL: the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown (CEML) which was founded in 1985 to fight against the brutality of USP Marion specifically, to work against the spread of control units throughout the U.S. and to expose the white supremacist nature of the prison system. Write CEML, PO Box 578172, Chicago, IL 60657 or email: ceml@aol.com

2. PRISON FOCUS: California Prison Focus (CPF), investigates and publicizes conditions in California's three control unit prisons, Pelican Bay, Corcoran and Valley State for Women. Their goal is to bring together the communities on the outside with those on the inside, to work in solidarity with prisoners and provide them with a voice. CPF seeks to end the use of long term isolation with the ultimate goal of abolishing all U.S. prisons as they exist today. Write CPF, 2489 Mission St. #28, S.F. CA 94110. Subs. are \$20/year, \$5. for prisoners and free to California prisoners in high security units.

3. THIS JUST IN: a Bulletin for news of Political Prisoners and POW's. Write Betty and Herman Liveright, 403 Devonshire Ests. Lenox, MA 01240. A \$10. donation is appreciated.

4. SPIRIT OF CRAZY HORSE: official newsletter for the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, it is published 6/year and has information on many prison related issues as well as info on Leonard Peltier and the campaigns for his freedom. Write LPDC, PO Box 583, Lawrence KS 66044. Subs. are \$12, \$7. for seniors, \$5. for prisoners, \$22. internationally.

5. COALITION FOR PRISONERS' RIGHTS: newsletter published monthly by the Prison Project of Santa Fe, Inc. PO Box 1911, Santa Fe NM 87504. Subs are free to prisoners, their family members and ex-prisoners, \$12 for others.



Dale Wittig

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: USA CAMPAIGN

In October 1998, Amnesty International (AI), the well respected, global human rights watchdog, formally announced their year long international campaign focusing on human rights violations in the US. The USA Campaign (Rights for All) is the first AI effort to focus on the US and will have the backing of 1800 US chapters and 4000 chapters worldwide, representing more than one million members.

The Campaign on the USA focuses on seven areas of abuse: Refugee Issues (end violations of the fundamental human rights of asylum-seekers, people forced to leave their own countries and seek asylum from persecution, torture and certain death); US Arms and Human rights abuses (stop supplying arms and training to countries who commit human rights abuses on their citizens and neighboring countries); Death Penalty Issues (end the increase of executions and crimes punishable by death); Juvenile Issues (call on the USA to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and ensure that children are imprisoned separately from adults, unless it's in the child's best interests); Police Brutality; Torture and Abuse of Prisoners; Women's Prison Issues.

The campaign is an historic event. We applaud AI for taking on the glaring violations present in the USA. Widely criticized for their lack of action on human rights abuse within our borders, it's heartening that AI is moving on and applying their principles to the USA. Join us in supporting the USA Campaign, spread the word and help make it a success.

But in cyber space and elsewhere words are flying. There is discontent because AI's 150 page report overlooks US-held political prisoners and Prisoners of War, native sovereignty and colonialism. This is a problem. There are over 100 US-held political prisoners. Why doesn't AI include the abuses, the disparate sentences, the frame ups of these political women and men? The ongoing genocide against indigenous nations and peoples in the US is absent. We have got to ask why? We urge people to support this aggressive campaign against human rights abuses in the US but we need to be critical too. It is important to encourage AI to add these issues to their USA campaign.

For Campaign info: Amnesty International USA, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. SE 5th floor, Washington, DC 20003. Online info: <http://www.amnesty-usa.org/rightsforall/index.html>. To purchase the report: AIUSA Publications, 322 8th Ave., New York, NY 10001 212-807-8400. To raise questions: E-mail International Secretariat (London): amnestyis@amnesty.org, or write to the Washington address above.

Plea for Money for Out of Time

Out of Control Lesbian Committee has been around for 12 years. In addition to other activities, OOT helps raise three thousand dollars each year for a Commissary Fund that we administer, sending money to the sisters inside on a regular basis. We are not as good at raising money for our internal operations.

We do not pay any salaries, our mailbox at the Women's Building is \$60./year and our biggest budget item is Out of Time, published 4-6 times yearly. Over 2,000 copies are distributed free each time. Approximately 200-250 go inside to prisoners. The newsletter provides information and updates on individual prisoners, prison conditions and other prison-related work around the country and internationally. We believe Out of Time (OOT) plays an important role in keeping prisoners informed and connected to their communities, friends and families and the movements that support them. It also facili-

tates networking among individuals and organizations on the outside who are interested in prison related issues. We send OOT to many groups in the U.S. and overseas: 10 in Germany alone. We also have exchanges with many other papers/magazines and send bulk copies to several other groups to distribute in their areas. Our mailing list is always growing. We have published 46 issues to date and at this point, it costs about \$450 an issue for printing and postage.

WE NEED HELP.

Occasionally we get a grant but haven't been successful in quite a while. We are looking to our readership in hopes of raising enough money to get us through 1999. We need a minimum of \$2,550 to publish the next 6 issues. We thank all our readers for all the support, monetary and otherwise, they have always given us.



Love Letter to Marilyn

This is a love letter, not a solidarity message. After years together living and working in clandestinity, and then 14 years together in prison, we know one another better and more intimately than many long-time couples. So this is a love letter to Marilyn Buck.

Marilyn is our hero. She was our hero long before we'd even met her - she represented the kind of serious solidarity with the Black liberation struggle that our northamerican anti-imperialist movement valued and strove to achieve. She was our movement's John Brown.

She's still all of that. But from all those years together we also know how deep and genuine Marilyn's commitment truly is. Marilyn is not rhetoric and flourish, she is the day-in-day-out sacrifice and hard work necessary to any revolutionary activity. She couples the most demanding expectations of herself with a profound and growing tolerance for others - a generosity of spirit noticed by all those prisoners who know her here.

It's an old saying to call stand-up prisoners "soldiers." Marilyn is a soldier - uncomplaining, hardy of spirit, free of bitterness. Most importantly, she takes responsibility for her place in the human landscape, never forsaking the fundamental goals and principles that have set revolutionary women and men on the path to righting wrongs for so many generations in this world.

Marilyn accepts her own difficulties with grace - including the hideous prospect of life in prison. But we can't accept that. Her unswerving commitment to international revolution and national liberation makes her an enemy to this government - and they are determined to keep her locked up as long as possible. We have to defy the government's efforts to keep Marilyn from us, and give her consistent support while she's in prison. Most of all, we need to fight for her release - along with Mutulu's, Sekou's, and all her co-defendants and other political prisoners. Winning her freedom will require our best creative energy and resolve. Along with all of you here today, we commit ourselves to that task, to bring the power, and talents, and strength of all the political prisoners and POWs back out to the community, where they belong.

¡Venceremos! Linda Evans and Laura Whitehorn, January 1999

Holiday Benefit Smashing Success!

The Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair held in Berkeley raised over \$5,000 in funds for women political prisoners. Organized by the ad-hoc Holiday Benefit Committee for Women Political Prisoners, the initial idea for the crafts fair came from the women political prisoners and Prisoners of War at FCI-Dublin.

The benefit organizers attribute the large success of the holiday arts and crafts sale to heightened interest and visibility of women prisoners and political prisoners

in this country in the wake of the national conference held in Berkeley, Critical Resistance: Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex.

Hundreds of people came through the doors of the Berkeley Fellowship Hall to purchase crafts made by women political prisoners and supportive businesses and artisans. Thanks to the solicitation efforts of one of Susan Crane's supporters (Susan is a political prisoner at FCI-Dublin), over 25 artists and businesses from

Ukiah donated hand made items for the event.

Organizations representing political prisoners and women in prison like the Comité 98, Out of Control, and the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, distributed literature throughout the day. A large banner expressing support for Mumia Abu-Jamal was hung outside the hall in solidarity with a march that took place on the day of the sale.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this benefit a success.